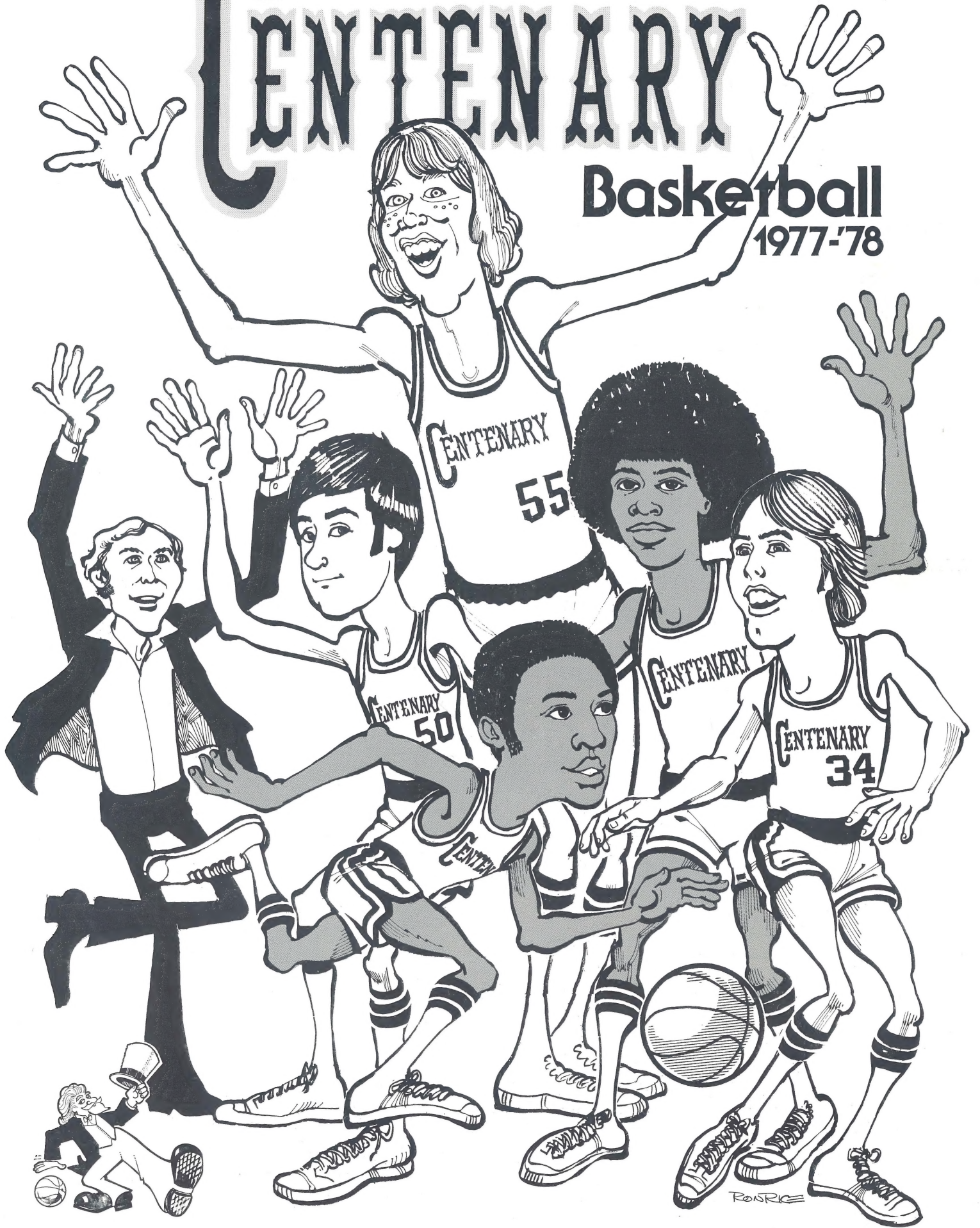
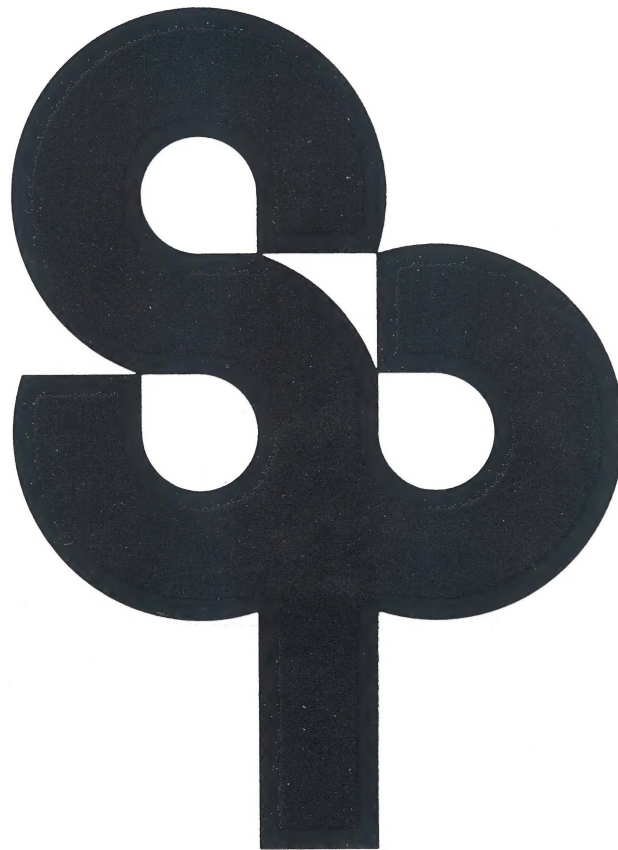


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TONIGHT'S FEATURES:

THE GAME 2

Redbirds have MTXE and a lot of wins

GENTLEMEN'S CORNER 15

George Lett—a smooth style

THE SPOTLIGHT 22

Centenary Men's Tennis, Cross Country

REMEMBER: 35

Milton Williams—"The Chief"

1977-78 Centenary Basketball Magazine
Published by Centenary Sports Information Office
Editor and Program Manager—Nico Van Thyn
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Photos—Jack Barham, and Shreveport Journal photo staff

Cover Drawing by Ron Rice
Centenary Player Drawings by Dee Dulle

CENTENARY COLLEGE 1977-78 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

W 65-59	McNEESE STATE	Nov. 26	GOLD DOME
W 93-80	NORTHWESTERN	Dec. 5	GOLD DOME
	Hatter Classic		
L 59-93	New Orleans	Dec. 9	Deland, Fla.
L 86-90	Arkansas State	Dec. 10	Deland, Fla.
L 73-105	TEXAS	Dec. 17	HIRSCH COLISEUM
L 73-79	McNeese State	Dec. 21	Lake Charles, La.
L 77-96	DEPAUL	Dec. 23	GOLD DOME
L 84-85	PORTLAND	Dec. 28	GOLD DOME
L 62-87	LAMAR	Dec. 30	GOLD DOME
JANUARY			
L 56-72	Marquette	Jan. 6	Milwaukee, Wis.
W 79-71	NORTH TEXAS STATE	Jan. 9	GOLD DOME
W 102-85	HAWAII	Jan. 11	GOLD DOME
W 62-60	Northeast Louisiana	Jan. 14	Monroe, La.
L 61-88	Oklahoma City	Jan. 17	Oklahoma City, Okla.
W 101-81	HARDIN-SIMMONS	Jan. 21	GOLD DOME
W 89-76	Northwestern State	Jan. 23	Natchitoches, La.
L 76-80	Lamar	Jan. 28	Beaumont, Tex.
	(Overtime)		
L 91-109	PAN AMERICAN	Jan. 30	GOLD DOME
FEBRUARY			
L 96-101	North Texas State	Feb. 6	Denton, Tex.
	(Overtime)		
W 97-84	Hardin-Simmons	Feb. 9	Abilene, Tex.
L 97-85	LOUISIANA TECH	Feb. 13	GOLD DOME
W 82-71	Southwestern Louisiana	Feb. 15	Lafayette, La.
L 93-83	Iona	Feb. 18	New Rochelle, N.Y.
L 82-81	Long Island	Feb. 20	Brooklyn, N.Y.
23 (Thu.)	Pan American	8 p.m.	Edinburg, Tex.
25 (Sat.)	ILLINOIS STATE	7:30 p.m.	GOLD DOME
	(Homecoming)		
MARCH			
1* (Wed.)	Louisiana Tech	7:30 p.m.	Ruston, La.

Times listed are Central Standard Time
Preliminary home games, 5:30 p.m.

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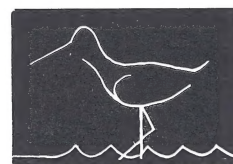
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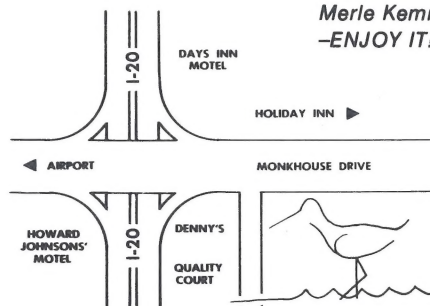
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TONIGHT'S OPPONENT

MTXE—Mental toughness, extra effort.

Illinois State's players have MTXE towels and chairs and MTXE is lettered on their uniforms.

"It's not a gimmick; it's a reality," says Head Coach Gene Smithson.

Whatever it is, there is no doubting the success of the Illinois State basketball program in Smithson's three years as head coach.

An ISU assistant for four years, he took over in 1975 and his first two teams were 20-7 and 22-7.

Last year's team made the National Invitation Tournament in which it beat Creighton, then lost a one-point overtime decision to

Houston in the quarterfinals at Madison Square Garden.

This year's team is aiming for another post-season invitation—NCAA or NIT—and should get it.

As this was written, ISU's record was 21-2—second-best in the nation—with games ahead at home with Athletes in Action (an exhibition) and McNeese State.

The Redbirds were ranked 16th in the nation by Associated Press and their victims include New Orleans, Long Island and Indiana State . . . all Centenary opponents of this season or last.

The only losses were to California-Santa Barbara (84-69) and Nevada-Las Vegas (94-92), both road games. And last season, they beat Nevada-Las Vegas, an NCAA semifinalist.

The ISU leader is 6-6 senior forward Billy Lewis, an All-American type averaging 21.5

points and 8.8 rebounds a game. He's No. 10.

There are three other second-year starters—6-5 guard Ron Jones (No. 13), averaging 15.7 points a game; 6-1 guard Derrick Mayes, (No. 21), averaging 12.0 points; and 6-7½ forward Del Yarbrough (No. 45), averaging 10.0 points and 6.9 rebounds.

And although ISU lost 7-footer Jeff Wilkins off last year's team, another 7-footer, Joe Galvin (No. 32), has been a suitable replacement at center. He's averaging 11.5 points and 8.3 rebounds.

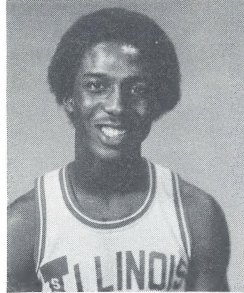
Here's the bad news for future opponents: Mayes is a junior; Jones, Galvin and Yarbrough are sophomores.

The Redbirds' top reserves are 6-4½ swing man Rick Ferina (No. 31) and 6-3 guard Randy Smithson (No. 44), the coach's son.

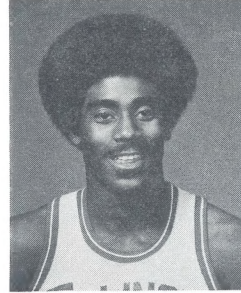
It all adds up to a very challenging Homecoming game for the Gentlemen.



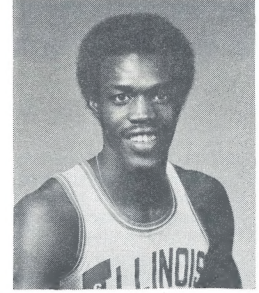
GENE SMITHSON
Head Coach



RON JONES
6-5 Soph. Guard



DERRICK MAYES
6-1 Jr. Guard



BILLY LEWIS
6-6 Sr. Forward

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In what year did the University of Kentucky win the last of its five NCAA basketball championships under Coach Adolph Rupp?

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GAME # 12

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ANSWER _____

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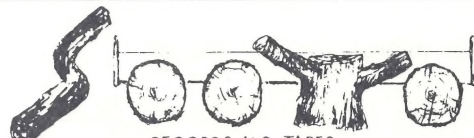


Skip Clements, assistant general manager of Clements Lincoln-Mercury, presents the keys to a '77 Mercury Cougar to Centenary Athletic Director-Head Basketball Coach Riley Wallace for his use in promoting Centenary athletics.



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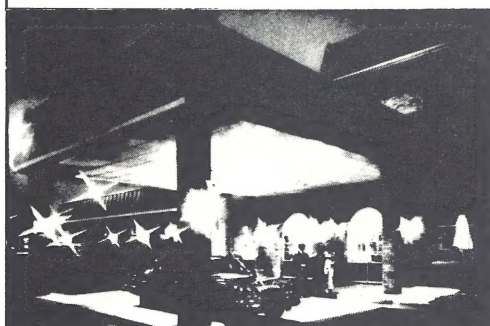
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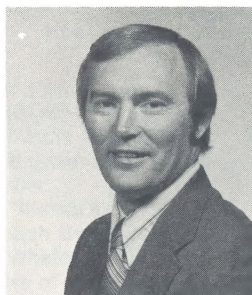


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RILEY WALLACE ...

Men's Athletic Director, Head Coach



Speaking out is characteristic of Riley Wallace.

So is enthusiasm.

That's why it wasn't surprising last spring when, at a Gents Club luncheon, Wallace predicted a 20-win season and NCAA Tournament spot for Centenary in the very near future.

If anyone knows the potential of Centenary College and its basketball and athletic programs, it is Robert Riley Wallace, Class of '64 and, for the past 10 years, a member of the coaching staff.

After nine years as the top assistant basketball coach and chief recruiter, he became head coach and athletic director on April 10, 1976.

As part of the coaching team that recruited Robert Parish and his surrounding cast, Wallace helped build the most successful four-year record in Centenary basketball history.

Now that same type of success — to an even greater degree — is his goal.

"We've been there for a short time," says Wallace, "but it's something that can be maintained over a long period of time. We're a strong, recognized program throughout the nation and that helps us recruit. We'll go after the best players we can."

Wallace's first season as head coach was dubbed "A New Era" because only three players returned off the previous year's varsity. The rebuilding process began with an 11-19 record that included a multitude of close losses.

"I think we've gone about rebuilding the right way," he says. "We didn't go heavily for junior college transfers. We went for the student-athlete types who can stay four years and work into the program. It might take a little longer to get where you want, but it'll be worth it when you do."

Despite Centenary's status as the smallest school (by enrollment) in Division I, Wallace is confident the Gents can play with some of the nation's top basketball powers. And the schedule — past, present and future — indicates that.

"We'll play as good a schedule as we can get," says Riley. "It's difficult to get together with many schools. We'd like to have some of them come into Shreveport, maybe for a tournament if we can get the backing. Of course, we'll keep our traditional rivals and keep taking the nice trips, which, I think, are part of the educational process for the players."

As athletic director, Wallace has found public relations (and fund-raising) an increasingly important part of the job.

It is something at which he spends a lot of time. The tall redhead has a full load of luncheon speaking engagements, basketball clinic and camp visits, golf matches (his favorite hobby) and the like . . . anywhere he can visit with people and spread the word on Centenary.

"We're shooting for the solid total program," he says. "One sport strengthens the other. If you want to touch the community, get their financial support, you've got to interest people in all our sports."

"Some people that are tennis or golf fans, may not be basketball fans. And vice versa. So you've got to try to get them interested at all levels."

With P.R. in mind, promotions for Gent basketball will be emphasized more. Such as "Basketball Day," a Wallace innovation last season.

"We have to do more than we have," he says. "We've been satisfied too many times with smaller crowds. We've got to go out and promote, meet the public, get the publicity."

"We have a good nucleus of fans, but we need it to be bigger. We've got to promote the products, get them in to see it and give them a good showing. You've got to do things to get them in your house."

With his players, the press, fans, opponents and — yes — the officials, Wallace is outspoken. He says what he believes — and he believes it strongly.

He is concerned with his players' needs and makes a strong effort to see that they graduate from Centenary — something he's been doing since he returned as assistant coach in 1967-68.

He first came to Centenary in 1959 as a freshman basketball player recruited out of Jerseyville, Ill., by Orvis Sigler, who also brought him back as a coach.

Wallace, now 36, captained the Gents in his final two seasons, was Most Valuable Player in the Gulf South Classic in 1962 and takes great pride in being among the Gent career scoring and rebounding leaders.

He coached the Gent freshmen team one year, then returned to Illinois (Litchfield) to coach for three years. At Centenary, he was chief assistant under three head coaches.

Now the program is his responsibility and one thing was clear in the first year: For pure excitement — win or lose — Centenary basketball didn't miss a beat.

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Ht. 6-5. Wt. 215. Born Oct. 28, 1941, at Grafton, Ill. Graduated Jerseyville (Ill.) High School, 1959. Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Centenary, 1964. Masters' degree in Education from University of Illinois, 1967. Married Joan Williams of Monroe, La., Aug. 3, 1963. Children: Robert Riley, Jr. (Rob), 4, and Kimberly Joan, 6 months.

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RON KESTENBAUM...

Chief Assistant Coach



This is Ron Kestenbaum's second year as chief assistant basketball coach at Centenary and as national recruiting coordinator.

The New York City native and resident for 33 years isn't greeting people with "howdy, y'all" yet since his move to the Deep South a year ago. But he likes where he is and what he's doing.

"It's a lot more fun getting on a 747 and going to Hawaii," he laughs, "than getting on the IND subway and going to 116th Street for a basketball game."

After six very successful years of high school coaching in The Bronx, Ron found college coaching a different life last year.

"You get to see the kids you're coaching in a lot different environment," he says. "You're living with them, or close to them, a great deal of the time. It gives you a better insight to their personalities and problems."

"You have to be a close family, otherwise you're not going to exist."

Kestenbaum came to Centenary a proven winner. Starting a program at a new high school, he built a 74-26 record at Adlai Stevenson with Section II NYC championships in 1973 and 1974. He was The City's "Coach of the Year" in '74.

He has helped bring several New York City products to Centenary, including two players (George Lett and Kevin Starke) who were with him at Stevenson.

Kestenbaum will recruit The City and in the Northeast, but stresses the Gents will go anywhere "to get the best players we can. We're going after the type of students who will fit in with us academically and socially . . . someone who can be a credit to Centenary and himself. And we want them to stay with us for four years or whatever it takes to graduate."

Among Ron's hobbies is physical fitness. He's an avid runner.

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Ht. 5-9. Wt. 155. Born Sept. 16, 1943, in New York City. Graduated Stuyvesant High School (Manhattan), played basketball and baseball there (All-City shortstop). Bachelor's degree, 1966, and masters' degree, 1968, in physical education from Hunter College in New York City. Played two years of basketball and one year of baseball there. Married Peggy Acker of New York City March 31, 1966. Children: Matthew, 9, and Russell, 7.

TOMMY CANTERBURY...

Assistant Coach, Golf Coach



His titles at Centenary are assistant basketball and head golf coach. Tommy Canterbury could also be described as a salesman and stand-up (or sit-down) comedian.

Tommy simply enjoys people — meeting them, being with them, entertaining them. And people like him.

His down-home personality may be traced to growing up in and around Simsboro, La., one of those little places where everyone knows everyone.

Canterbury is in his second year at Centenary and is in charge of recruiting the South, particularly Louisiana and the nearby states.

His influence was evident with the recruiting of several Louisiana athletes last year in basketball and golf.

And the Gents made strong bids for other top-notch athletes who went elsewhere.

When recruiting, Canterbury fits the salesman part.

"Recruiting is selling — yourself, your school, your city and your (basketball or golf) program."

"I feel Centenary athletics has a lot to offer, therefore I feel comfortable and honest in selling and promoting our program."

Tommy is a popular speaker at luncheons, banquets, classes — wherever he's invited. "I like it," he says. "It's a chance to promote the program and you should never pass up that chance."

In recruiting, he counts on persistence. "My first year, I was surprised at the enormous amount of time it involves and how personally involved one gets doing it. It's very competitive."

"Many college coaches say that recruiting is their least favorite part of basketball," he adds. "Personally, I enjoy it as much as the coaching."

Canterbury coached seven years in high school, one at Dodson and six at Springhill, compiling a 142-105 (.575) record. The big year was 1973-74 at Springhill when Bobby White led a 35-4 team to the District 1-AAA title and Tommy earned "Coach of the Year" honors in the league.

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Ht. 5-10. Wt. 175. Born May 18, 1947, at Ruston, La. Graduated Simsboro (La.) High School, 1965. Played basketball and baseball there (all-district twice in each sport). Bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education from Louisiana Tech University, 1970. Masters' degree in Physical Education from Louisiana Tech, 1974. President, Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Tech (1970). Married Carol Ann Thornhill of Columbia, La., June 5, 1971. Children: Chad, 3.

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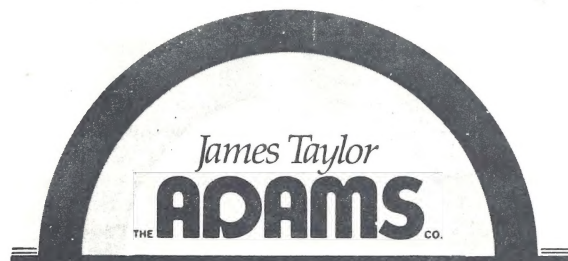
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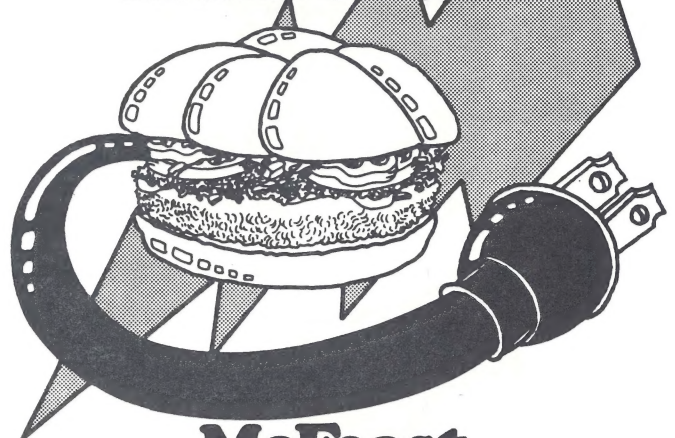
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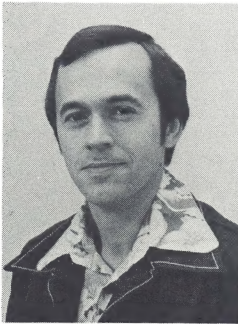
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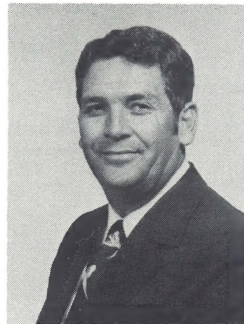
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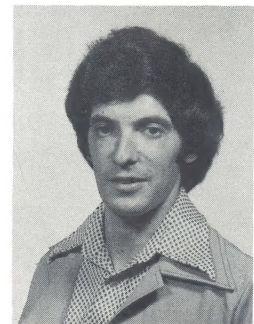
GLENN EVANS
Asst. Athletic Director



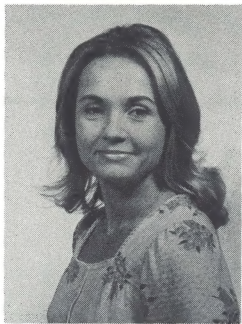
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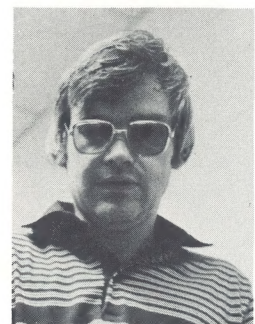
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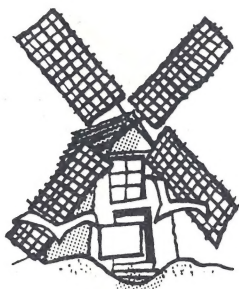
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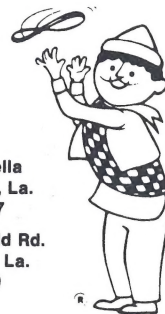
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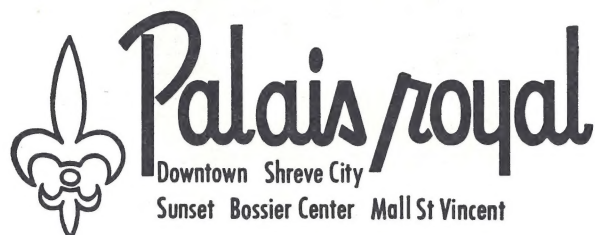
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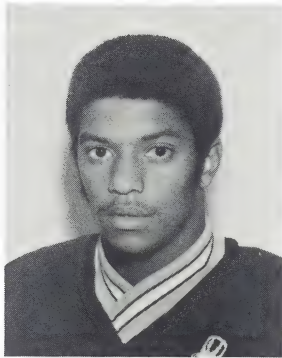
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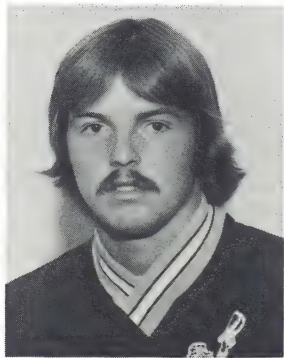
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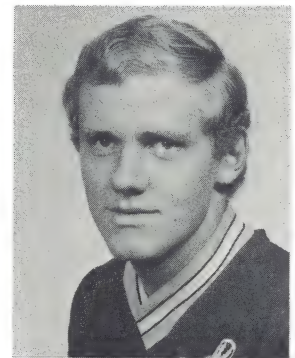
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Monticello, N.Y.



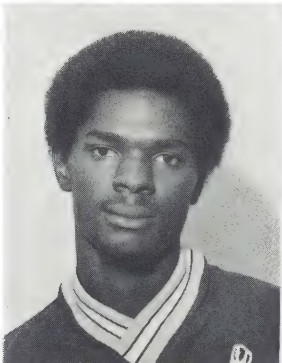
BILL SCHMIDT
6-4 Sr. Guard
Belleville, Ill.



BOBBY WHITE
6-6 Sr. Forward
Springhill, La.



PETER DE WEYS
6-9 Jr. C-F
The Netherlands



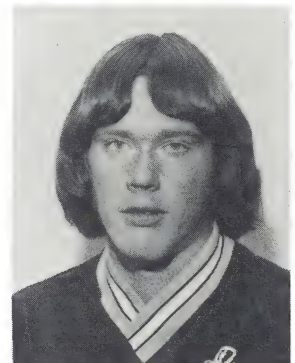
GEORGE LETT
6-7 Soph. Forward
New York City, N.Y.



AARON STRAYHORN
6-1 Soph. Guard
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WALTER LOUIS
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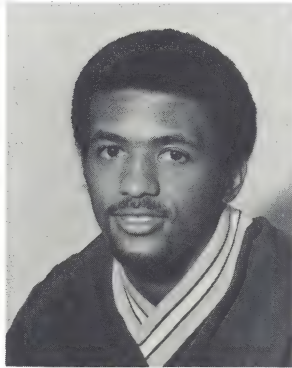
231 Fairfield Building
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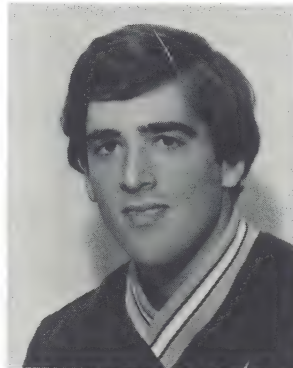
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PHONE 631-0235

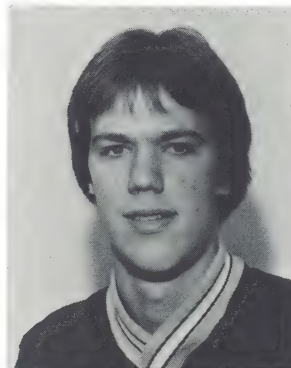
MEET THE GENTS



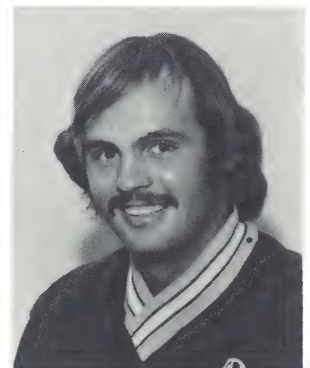
KEVIN STARKE
6-2 Soph. Guard
New York City, N.Y.



JOHN DERENBECKER
6-8 Fr. Forward
Metairie, La.



STAN ELFRINK
6-9 Fr. Forward
Cahokia, Ill.



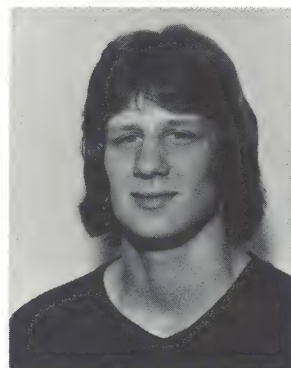
STEVE KELLY
6-1 Fr. Guard
Bossier City, La.



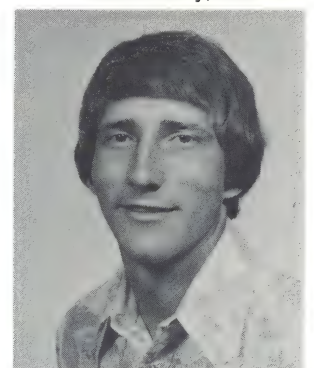
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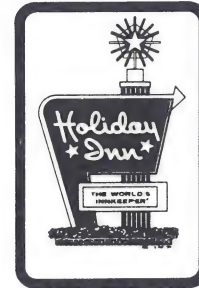
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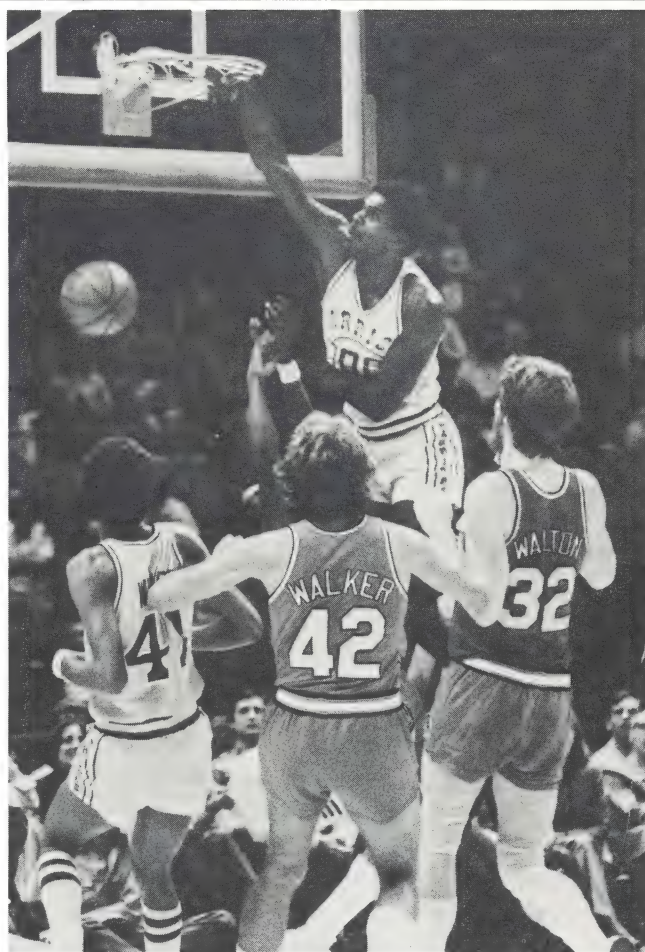
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- Centenary team captain three years (1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76)
- No. 1 Draft Choice, Golden State Warriors 1976
- Top rebounder in the nation in 1974-75 (15.4 per game) and 1975-76 (18.0); ranked No. 3 as freshman in 1972-73 (18.7) and No. 5 as a sophomore in 1973-74 (15.3)
- Shreveport's "Best Ad" of 1975
- Jim Corbett Memorial Award as Louisiana's outstanding amateur athlete of 1975
- Captain and starting center, U.S. Pan American team 1975
- Starting center, U.S. Intercontinental Cup Games team 1975
- Louisiana Collegiate "Player of Year" ... three times (1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76)
- All-Louisiana Collegiate Team ... four times (1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76)
- All-Louisiana Collegiate "Freshman of Year" 1972-73
- Citizens Savings Athletic Foundation All-American 1974, 1975 and 1976
- The Sporting News All-American first team 1976
- Converse Rubber Co. All-American second team 1976
- Independent All-American 1975 and 1976
- All-South Independent Team 1974 and 1975
- National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 6 Team, 2nd team in 1974 and first team in 1975
- All-American Team Sports Quarterly 1974
- Street and Smith's All-American second team 1975
- Full Court Press All-American second team 1975
- What's Going On All-American third team 1976
- All-Tournament Hall of Fame Tournament 1974
- All-Tournament All-College Tournament 1974 and 1975, Most Valuable Player 1975



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GENTLEMEN'S CORNER:

GEORGE LETT, 6-7 Soph. Forward, New York City

George Lett plays basketball with style . . . his own style.

The word you keep hearing to describe it is "smooth." A trapeze artist he's not, but he does fly through the air with the greatest of ease. The same way he runs and shoots and does most anything else.

And he thinks about that smooth style when he plays.

"Yes, definitely," he says. "I don't want to just get the job done. I want to look good doing it."

He admits the roar of the crowd is a pleasing sound and that a spectacular style, as his own, "sets some players apart from regular players. Like Earl Monroe has his style and Walt Frazier has his . . . and anybody can dunk, but the way Doc (Julius "Dr. J" Erving) does it is something else."

For Centenary fans, the way George Lett dunks it is something else.

George and the fans, of course, had to wait 1½ seasons after his transfer from the University of Hawaii, where he averaged 10 points and 8.2 rebounds a game and started all 27 games as one of the nation's top freshmen.

A Robert Parish he's not . . . he doesn't intimidate or overpower opponents. But he does have a striking physical resemblance to Robert (never mind the five-inch height difference) and he does create excitement.

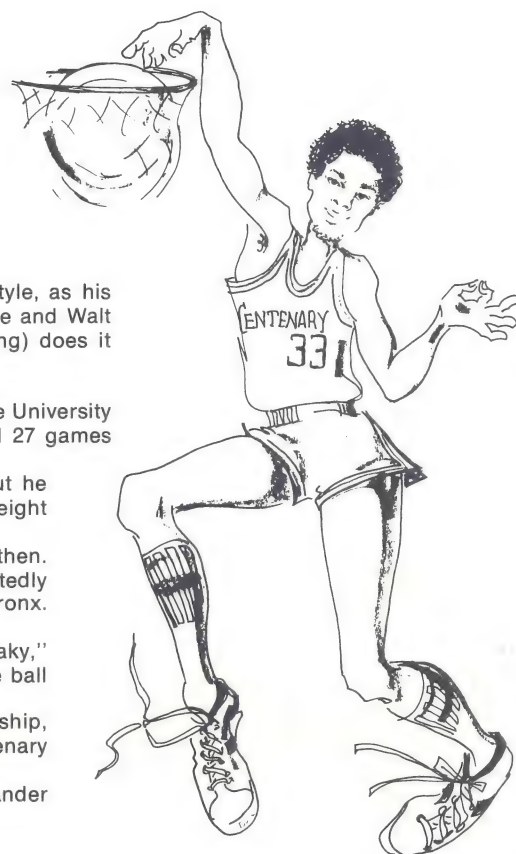
Not even Robert could dunk . . . college basketball rules being what they were then.

"He's a great talent, I think," says Gent assistant coach Ron Kestenbaum, admittedly prejudiced since he coached George at Adlai Stevenson High in New York City's Bronx. "He's a prospect for the pros."

For George, the long layoff was tough. "The first couple of games back I was shaky," he admits. "My shot wasn't hitting like I should have been and I didn't handle the ball well . . . But I'm feeling comfortable now."

In high school, Lett helped Stevenson win a New York City Section II championship, earned a bundle of all-star honors and was heavily recruited. He came to Centenary via Hawaii through Kestenbaum's influence.

Soft-spoken George is a Business major at Centenary. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Lemander Lett, he turned 21 on Jan. 29.



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It is a strong private independent institution still dedicated to excellence in teaching and service to its community.

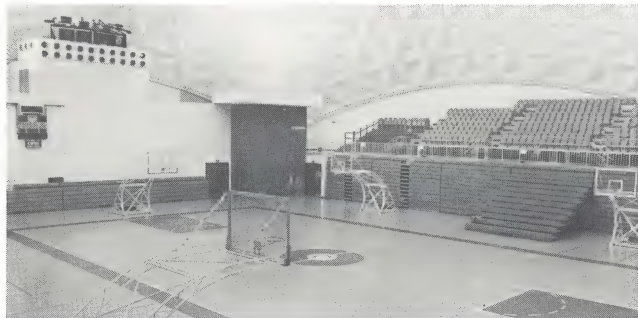
In 1975, Centenary celebrated its Sesquicentennial (150th birthday). But the spirit is alive and stronger than ever and part of the reason for that is its 33rd president, Dr. Donald A. Webb, who took office on June 1.

The College serves not only its students, but also the people of Shreveport-Bossier City and the Ark-La-Tex region.

Centenary has an annual budget of more than \$4 million—equal to that of a major industry in the community. It is an important part of the cultural life of the region through the programs presented by the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse, the Hurley School of Music, the Meadows Museum of Art and the Magale Library.

It is a college with a beautiful campus, particularly in Crumley Memorial Gardens when the azaleas bloom in the spring.

Approximately 50 per cent of the student body of the College is from Louisiana and 65 per cent of the students live on campus. It is a place where almost everyone knows everyone else.



Inside the Gold Dome



And that's a selling point for Centenary College. It offers a small college atmosphere—where individual attention is important—with life in a city that is not too big and not too small. It's a great combination.

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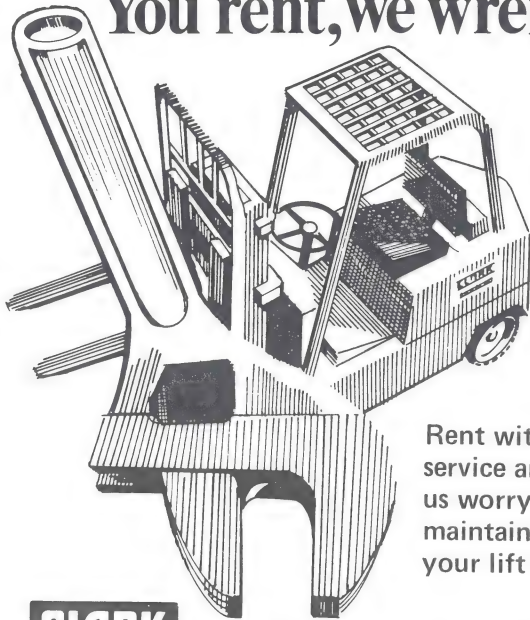
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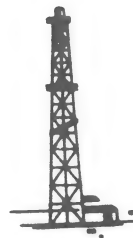
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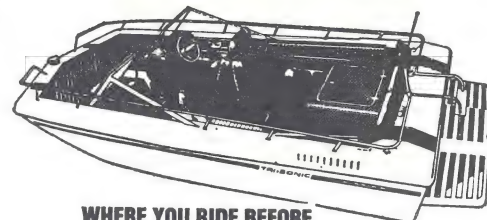
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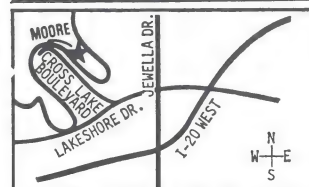
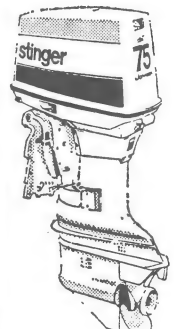
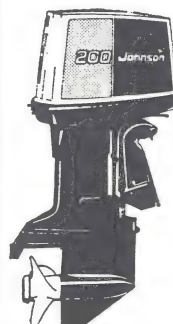


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10	Aaron Strayhorn	G	19	6-1	170	Soph.	1V	New York City, N.Y.—Haaren
13	John Derenbecker	F	18	6-8	210	Fr.	HS	Metairie, La.—Country Day
20	Wayne Waggoner	G	18	6-3	175	Fr.	HS	Logansport, La.—Logansport
22	Rudy Manne	C	19	7-0	225	Soph.	1V	New York City, N.Y.—Gompers
23	Steve Kelly	G	18	6-1	175	Fr.	HS	Bossier City, La.—Airline
30	Stan Elfrink	F	18	6-9	190	Fr.	HS	Cahokia, Ill.—St. Henry's
33	George Lett	F	21	6-7	195	Soph.	Tr.	New York City, N.Y.—Stevenson
34	Bill Schmidt	G-F	21	6-4	190	Sr.	1V	Belleville, Ill.—Belleville West
42	Bobby White	F	21	6-6	220	Sr.	2V	Springhill, La.—Springhill
50	Walter Louis	F	21	6-6	190	Jr.	1V	Dallas, Tex.—W.T. White
55	Peter DeWeys	F-C	23	6-9	225	Jr.	Tr.	Voorschoten, The Netherlands

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10	Billy Lewis	F	6-6	195	Sr.	23	3	Chicago, Ill.—Farragut
13	Ron Jones	G	6-5	175	Soph.	19	1	Venice, Ill.—Madison
21	Derrick Mayes	G	6-1	170	Jr.	20	2	Elgin, Ill.—Elgin
24	McKay Smith	F	6-5	165	Fr.	18	0	Springfield, Ill.—Southeast
31	Rick Ferina	G-F	6-4½	180	Jr.	20	2	Niles, Ill.—Notre Dame
32	Joe Galvin	C	7-0½	218	Soph.	19	1	Bloomington, Ill.—Bloomington
35	Larry Lowe	F	6-7	190	Soph.	20	1	Glenwood, Ill.—Bloom Township
42	Robert McCoy	F	6-5	195	Soph.	20	1	Chicago Heights, Ill.—Bloom Township
44	Randy Smithson	G	6-3	180	Fr.	20	0	Normal, Ill.—Normal Community
45	Del Yarbrough	F	6-7½	220	Soph.	20	1	North Chicago, Ill.—North Chicago
52	Roy Herold	C	6-8	205	Fr.	19	0	Helsinki, Finland—Huntington, Ind.
55	Anthony Jones	F	6-6	186	Fr.	20	0	Chicago, Ill.—Westinghouse

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ASSISTANT COACHES: Ron Ferguson (Illinois '53),
Bill Flanagan (Monmouth '63)

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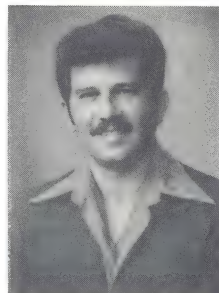
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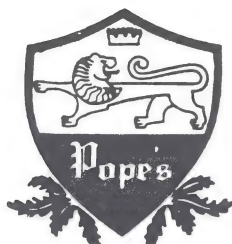
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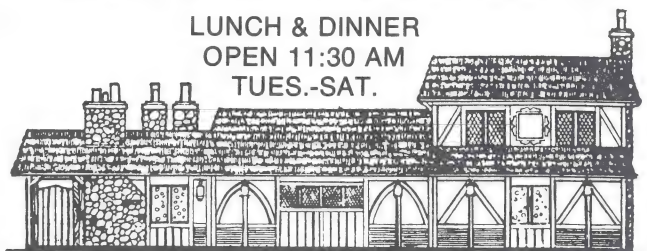
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THE GENTS YEAR-BY-YEAR

Season	Coach	W-L	Pct.	Home	Away
1976-77	Riley Wallace	11-19	.367	5-7	6-12
1975-76	Larry Little	22-5	.815	10-1	12-4
1974-75	Larry Little	25-4	.862	13-1	12-3
1973-74	Larry Little	21-4	.840	12-0	9-4
1972-73	Larry Little	19-8	.704	11-2	8-6
1971-72	Larry Little	13-12	.520	9-5	4-7
1970-71	Joe Swank	13-13	.500	10-7	3-6
1969-70	Joe Swank	8-16	.333	7-5	1-11
1968-69	Joe Swank	9-18	.333	7-6	2-12
1967-68	Orvis Sigler	3-23	.115	2-10	1-13
1966-67	Orvis Sigler	9-17	.346	5-8	4-9
1965-66	Orvis Sigler	12-14	.462	6-7	6-7
1964-65	Orvis Sigler	13-11	.542	9-2	4-9
1963-64	Orvis Sigler	16-8	.667	9-2	7-6
1962-63	Orvis Sigler	12-14	.462	9-5	3-9
1961-62	Orvis Sigler	17-9	.654	13-1	4-8
1960-61	Orvis Sigler	14-12	.538	9-6	5-6
1959-60	Orvis Sigler	12-12	.500	8-7	4-5
1958-59	Orvis Sigler	14-14	.500	8-7	6-7
1957-58	Harold Mooty	14-12	.538	11-4	3-8
1956-67	Harold Mooty	16-9	.640	12-3	4-6
1955-56	Harold Mooty	20-7	.741	15-3	5-4
1954-55	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	14-12	.538	10-3	4-9
1953-54	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	13-12	.520	11-4	2-8
1952-53	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	21-10	.677	12-3	9-7
1951-52	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	17-17	.500	10-3	7-14
1950-51	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	16-13	.552	10-2	6-11
1949-50	F. H. "Buss" Delaney	14-12	.538	10-2	4-10
1948-49	*Ab Young	21-15	.583	13-2	8-13
1947-48	Ab Young	11-21	.344	8-8	3-13
1946-47	Jack Clayton	16-7	.695	10-4	6-3
1945-46	Clayton Cornish	2-12	.143	2-5	0-7
1942-45	PROGRAM SUSPENDED BY WAR				

*Resigned Feb. 1, Glenn Smith completed season.

CENTENARY COACHING RECORDS

Coach	Years	Seasons	Won-Lost	Pct.
Riley Wallace	1976-	1	11-19	.367
Larry Little	1971-76	5	100-33	.752
Joe Swank	1968-71	3	30-47	.390
Orvis Sigler	1958-68	10	122-134	.476
Harold Mooty	1955-58	3	50-28	.641
F.H. "Buss" Delaney	1949-55	6	95-76	.556
Ab Young	1947-49	2	32-36	.471
Jack Clayton	1946-47	1	16-7	.696
Clayton Cornish	1945-46	1	2-12	.143
Elmer Smith	1939-42	3	24-23	.511
Curtis Parker	1927-39	12	228-77	.747
George Hoy	1926-27	1	2-15	.118
Homer Norton	1922-26	5	40-31	.563

SERIES RECORDS VS. OPPONENTS

McNeese State, 11-4	Hawaii, 6-9
Northwestern State, 25-37	Northeast Louisiana, 9-2
New Orleans, 3-1	*Oklahoma City, 8-21
*Arkansas State, 12-7	*Hardin-Simmons, 20-8
Stetson, 1st meeting	Pan American, 1-1
Texas, 6-5	Louisiana Tech, 74-38
*DePaul, 1-1	*Southwestern Louisiana, 13-12
Portland, 1-0	Iona, 1st meeting
Lamar, 11-6	Long Island, 1-1
Marquette, 1st meeting	*Illinois State, 3-0
*North Texas State, 6-5	

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That is important to those concerned with the Centenary men's tennis and cross country teams.

Not that winning isn't encouraged. But the stress is on competing.

The Gent tennis team, with freshmen playing the top four spots, will stay busy this spring with 21 dual matches—11 of them at home—and one tournament.

Bill Causey Sr. is coaching the team for the 10th straight year and he says, "with a little luck we can have a winning record."

Centenary's cross country program has come from the club level to intercollegiate competition and Dr. Wayne Hanson—chemistry professor, long distance runner and Gent cross country coach—now has a group of runners competing in track.

The Gents don't have a track and field team, as such, but are competing in events ranging from the 440-yard dash to the three-mile run in at least six meets this spring.

TENNIS

The season began Feb. 11 and the first four matches are at home on the Centenary courts.

The top four positions are being played by lefthander Mike Bender of Richardson, Tex., Richard Wilson of Shreveport (Captain Shreve), Scott Turner of Dallas, Tex., and Will Downs of Magnolia, Ark.

The rest of the team includes senior Clayton Davis of Dallas, Tex., junior Van Wilson of Mesquite, Tex., and junior Charles Kesilman of Shreveport.

"The freshmen have good potential," says Causey, "and they will be strong players as they gain experience. We have some good teams on the schedule, especially early, so they'll be tested."

One of those teams is Louisiana Tech, which is the Gents' opponent tomorrow (Sunday) at 1:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country season is in the fall, but Centenary's runners haven't stopped. A five-man team is competing in track this spring ... and one of them is in the Boston Marathon.

That is sophomore Ron Casillas of Bossier City (Parkway), who will be running in the annual Patriots' Day race on April 17 for the second straight year.

He and senior Martin Poole of Shreveport (Captain Shreve) drove to Boston last year to run the 26 miles and 385 yards.

Casillas was one of Louisiana's best prep distance runners in 1975 and 1976 and he's been joined at Centenary by another Bossier City product, David Anderson of Bossier High. He won the District 2-AAAA two-mile title last spring and was second in Region I-AAAA.

The other team members are Poole, junior Jimmy Potter of Shreveport and sophomore Mark Suhar of Coushatta.

"We're running against some high-powered competition," says Dr. Hanson. "But Mark, Ron and David have some potential to be good distance men. They give us a good nucleus and the work this spring will help them."

Two other cross country competitors last fall were Kevin Ewer of Erie, Pa., and Rick Goins of Houston.



Ron Casillas

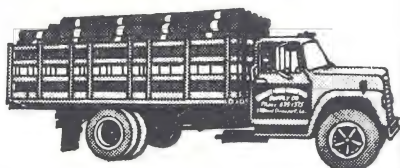
THANKS

We hope you have enjoyed this season's Centenary Basketball Magazines. Our thanks go to many people without whose help the production of the magazine would not have been possible—Centenary's Kappa Sigma Fraternity, photographers Jack Barham, Andy Sharp and Larry Hilton of the Shreveport Journal, Athletic Department secretary Terry Finklea, all the good folks at Mid-South Press, especially Mrs. Belinda Peyton, and, of course, all the advertisers. See you next season.



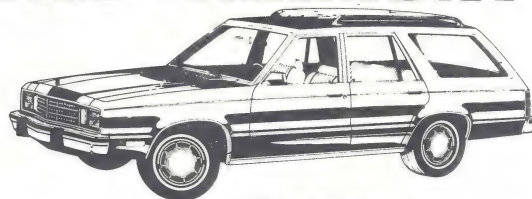
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CENTENARY CHEERLEADERS: (Bottom row, left to right) Bart Weaver, Jean Turner, Robin Birdsong, Dale Kirkindoll, (middle row) Ross Maggard, Becky Murphy, Mary Beall, Mark Wiginton, (top row) Mike Marshall, Melanie Patterson, Josh Bristow. Not pictured: Emily Oppenlander.



CENTENARY LADIES: (Left to right) Betsy Boyd, M'liss Berry, Sheri McCullough, Betsy Stockinger, Mimi Mitchell, Amanda McCoy, Julie Grammer, Paula Glanville.

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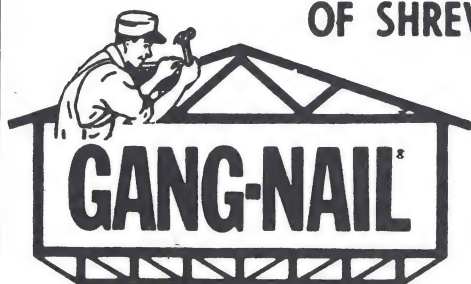


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CENTENARY AND NCAA STATISTICS

Centenary was not listed in the NCAA Division I statistics from 1972-76. If the Gents had been included, here's how they would have ranked nationally:

1972-73 Season

Team, 8th in scoring (89.4 points per game).

Robert Parish, 3rd in rebounding (18.7 per game).

1973-74 Season

Team, 9th in W-L percentage (21-4, .848) and tied for 4th in longest winning streak (12).

Robert Parish, 5th in rebounding (15.3 per game).

1974-75 Season

Team, 9th in scoring (89.4 points per game); 4th in rebound margin (9.8 per game); 7th in average scoring margin (13.4 per game); tied for 6th in W-L percentage (25-4, .862).

Robert Parish, 1st in rebounding (15.4 per game).

1975-76 Season

Team, 5th in scoring (89.2 points per game); 8th in rebound margin (9.1 per game).

Robert Parish, 1st in rebounding (18.0 per game); 13th in scoring (24.8 points per game); 16th in field goal percentage (.589).

PRIOR TO 1972-73

1968-69 Season

Larry Ward, 14th in field goal percentage (.561) and 4th in free throw percentage.

1967-68 Season

Larry Ward, 2nd in free throw percentage (.887).

Team, 1st in most personal fouls committed (24.2 per game).

1966-67 Season

Larry Ward, 32nd in scoring (22.1 points per game).

1965-66 Season

Tom Kerwin, 6th in scoring (27.9 points per game).

1964-65 Season

Tom Kerwin, 18th in scoring (24.2 points per game).

1963-64 Season

Tom Kerwin, 22nd in scoring (25.2 points per game).

COLLEGE DIVISION (Prior to 1958-59)

1956-57 Season

Milton Williams, 6th in free throw percentage (.846).

Team, 4th in free throw percentage (.723).

1955-56 Season

Ron Viskozki, 10th in free throw percentage (.825).

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By Edith MacLennan

Old Centenary stands right at the top
Come on let's boost and fight for her and never stop,
Until we've won for her a lasting honor true
Oh, Centenary we're for you.
We want a field goal,
We want a free throw
We want a victory
Cen-ten-ar-y.
G-E-N-T-S, We are back of you, we're proud of you.
G-E-N-T-S, Smash that defense, you can this time,
and show what you can do
While our colors fly
Drive on to victory, it's your Maroon and White.
Two points Gents, Two points Gents
Win that game, Win that game,
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!



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GOLD DOME RECORDS

Individual Single Game

Most Points — 38, ROBERT PARISH, Centenary vs. Texas-Arlington, Feb. 5, 1973.
 Most Field Goal Attempts — 30, CHARLES WHITE, East Tennessee, vs. Northwestern State, Dec. 29, 1971 (made 14); BOBBY WHITE, Centenary, vs. Northern Illinois, Dec. 4, 1976 (made 15).
 Most Field Goals Made — 17, ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Texas-Arlington, Feb. 5, 1973 (attempted 24).
 Best Field Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts) — .900 (9-of-10), NATE BLAND, Centenary, vs. Louisiana Tech, Dec. 1, 1973.
 Most Free Throw Attempts — 19, THURMAN BAPTISTE, Northwestern State, vs. Centenary, Dec. 30, 1971 (made 14).
 Most Free Throws Made — 14, THURMAN BAPTISTE, Northwestern State, vs. Centenary, Dec. 30, 1971 (attempted 19); RICK APKE, Creighton, vs. Centenary, Feb. 5, 1977 (attempted 15).
 Best Free Throw Percentage — 1.00 (8-of-8), JOE MERIWETHER, So. Illinois, vs. Centenary, Feb. 15, 1975; AL ARMSTRONG, Indiana State, vs. Centenary, Feb. 13, 1975.
 Most Rebounds — 33, ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Southern Mississippi, Jan. 27, 1973.
 Most Assists — 16, MELVIN RUSSELL, Centenary, vs. Texas-Arlington, Feb. 5, 1973.
 Most Turnovers — 12, WALTER "Weasel" JOHNSON, North Texas State, Feb. 23, 1977.

Team Single Game

Most Points, Centenary — 133, vs. Hardin-Simmons (133-94), Feb. 5, 1976.
 Most Points, Visitors — 107, North Texas State, vs. Centenary (107-104, 2 OT), Feb. 23, 1977.
 Most Points vs. Centenary — 96, Hawaii, vs. Centenary (96-91), Jan. 8, 1972.
 Most Points, Two Teams — 227 (Centenary 133, Hardin-Simmons 94), Feb. 5, 1976; 211 (North Texas State 107, Centenary 104, 2 OT), Feb. 23, 1977.
 Fewest Points, Centenary — 62, vs. Robert Morris (62-65), Jan. 10, 1977.
 Fewest Points, Opponents — 59, East Texas Baptist (59-86), Dec. 5, 1972.
 Fewest Points, Two Teams — 127 (Robert Morris 65, Centenary 62), Jan. 10, 1977.
 Biggest Centenary Win — 48 (Centenary 110, Wabash College 62), Jan. 2, 1975.
 Biggest Centenary Loss — 12 (Arkansas State 76, Centenary 64), Dec. 11, 1971.

Miscellaneous

Attendance — 4,000 (packed), vs. Houston, Jan. 17, 1974; vs. Louisiana Tech, Jan. 10, 1976.
 Longest Homecourt Winning Streaks — 18, Nov. 30, 1973, through Jan. 7, 1975 (broken by Hawaii 79-78, on Jan. 9, 1975).
 10, current (starting at 1976-77 season)
 Longest Homecourt Losing Streak — 2, in 1971-72 and 1976-77.

Top Individual Scoring Performance

	FG	FT
38—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary vs. Texas-Arlington, Feb. 5, 1973	24-17	6-4
36—CHARLIE JONES, Loyola, vs. Centenary, Feb. 12, 1972	26-15	5-4
36—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary vs. Houston Baptist, Feb. 21, 1976	23-14	9-8
35—VERNON WILSON, Northwestern vs. Centenary, Feb. 2, 1972	27-14	9-7
33—LARRY DAVIS, Centenary, vs. Loyola, Feb. 12, 1972	26-14	8-5
33—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. East Texas Baptist, Jan. 27, 1976	20-11	13-11
32—LEON JOHNSON, Centenary, vs. Houston, Jan. 17, 1974	22-14	5-4
32—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Houston Baptist, Feb. 9, 1974	26-14	5-4
32—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Athletes in Action, Jan. 12, 1976	19-15	2-2
32—BOBBY WHITE, Centenary, vs. Northern Illinois, Dec. 4, 1976	30-15	2-2

Top Individual Rebound Performances

33—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Southern Mississippi, Jan. 27, 1973
29—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Texas-Arlington, Feb. 5, 1973
27—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Lamar, Feb. 7, 1973
27—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Northwestern State, Dec. 9, 1974
26—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. Houston, Jan. 17, 1974
25—ROBERT PARISH, Centenary, vs. LSU-New Orleans, Jan. 15, 1973

By Opponent

23—THURMAN BAPTISTE, Northwestern State, vs. Centenary, Dec. 30, 1971



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SCORING (By Average)

1. Tom Kerwin 25.8. 2. Robert Parish 21.6. 3. Larry Ward 19.4. 4. Leon Johnson 17.8. 5. Barrie Haynie 17.0. 6. Larry Davis 16.5. 7. Burl Plunkett 16.0. 8. Connie Mack Rea 15.92. 9. Jesse Marshall 15.91. 10. Fred Zitar 15.7. 11. Nate Bland 15.0. 12. Milton Williams 14.8. 13. Jackie Crawford 14.5. 14. Stan McAfoos 13.8. 15. Cecil Upshaw 13.7. 16. Pototo Ramirez 13.1. 17. Jimmy Williams 12.9. 18. BOBBY WHITE 12.6. 19. Marshall Crawford 12.6. 20. John Blankenship 12.4. 21. Gerald Martello 12.3. 22. Jimmy Edelen 12.3. 23. Willard Moore 12.2. 24. Joey Johnson 12.1. 25. Lee Mansell 11.9.

SCORING

	Years Played	G	Points	Avg.
Robert Parish	4 (1972-76)	108	2,334	21.6
Tom Kerwin	3 (1963-66)	74	1,910	25.8
Larry Ward	3 (1966-69)	78	1,512	19.4
Leon Johnson	3 (1972-75)	81	1,444	17.8
Barrie Haynie	3 (1963-66)	73	1,243	17.0
Larry Davis	3 (1970-73)	75	1,237	16.5
Nate Bland	3 (1973-76)	81	1,216	15.0
Bob Wright	4 (1950-54)	114	1,112	9.8
Joey Johnson	3 (1948-51)	88	1,067	12.1
Jackie Crawford	3 (1958-61)	73	1,060	14.5
Stan McAfoos	3 (1961-64)	76	1,051	13.8
Dean Veatch	4 (1947-51)	119	999	8.4
Lenny Fant	4 (1946-50)	115	979	8.5
John Blankenship	3 (1966-69)	78	968	12.4
Cecil Upshaw	3 (1961-64)	69	946	13.7
Ron Viskozki	4 (1953-57)	90	938	10.4
BOBBY WHITE	3 (1974-77)	68	856	12.6
Larry Teague	4 (1953-57)	98	830	8.5
Connie Mack Rea	2 (1951-53)	52	828	15.9
Jesse Marshall	2 (1968-70)	51	811	15.9
Barry McLeod	3 (1973-76)	77	811	10.5
Riley Wallace	3 (1960-63)	77	795	10.3
John Hickerson	3 (1970-73)	78	789	10.1
Fred Zitar	2 (1969-71)	50	787	15.7
Burl Plunkett	2 (1953-55)	47	750	16.0
Dale Van Bibber	3 (1959-62)	66	734	11.1
John Pitts	3 (1974-77)	86	698	8.1

REBOUNDING

	Years Played	G	Rebounds	Avg.
Robert Parish	4 (1972-76)	108	1,820	16.9
Tom Kerwin	3 (1963-66)	74	748	10.1
Jackie Crawford	3 (1958-61)	73	697	9.5
Larry Teague	4 (1953-57)	98	679	6.9
Barrie Haynie	3 (1963-66)	73	672	9.2
John Pitts	3 (1974-77)	86	594	6.9
Fred Zitar	2 (1969-71)	50	591	11.8
Leon Johnson	3 (1972-75)	81	582	7.2
Riley Wallace	3 (1960-63)	77	571	7.4
Jesse Marshall	2 (1968-70)	51	505	9.9
Al Barnes	3 (1974-77)	86	505	5.9
Dale Van Bibber	3 (1959-62)	66	462	7.0
Larry Shoemaker	3 (1963-66)	72	451	6.3
Morris Schrimsher	2 (1956-58)	46	425	9.2
Billy Hester	1 (1952-53)	30	414	13.8

REBOUNDING (By Average)

1. Robert Parish 16.9. 2. Billy Hester 13.8 (one year). 3. Fred Zitar 11.8. 4. Tom Kerwin 10.1. 5. Jesse Marshall 9.9. 6. Jackie Crawford 9.5. 7. Barrie Haynie 9.2. 8. Morris Schrimsher 9.2. 9. Gerald Martello 7.7. 10. Riley Wallace 7.4. 11. Leon Johnson 7.2. 12. Dale Van Bibber 7.0. 13. Larry Teague 6.9. 14. John Pitts 6.9. 15. Larry Shoemaker 6.3.

FG PERCENTAGE

	Years Played	G	FGA-FGM	Pct.
Robert Parish	4 (1972-76)	108	1832-1034	.564
Fred Zitar	2 (1969-71)	50	561-301	.537
Jerry Waugh	3 (1972-75)	77	342-182	.532
Al Barnes	3 (1974-77)	86	471-248	.527
Nate Bland	3 (1973-76)	81	1056-546	.517
Larry Davis	3 (1970-73)	75	990-510	.515

FT PERCENTAGE

	Years Played	G	FTA-FTM	Pct.
Larry Ward	3 (1966-69)	78	341-298	.874
Ron Viskozki	4 (1953-57)	90	304-248	.816
Milton Williams	2 (1956-58)	44	184-149	.810
Dave Deets	3 (1971-74)	71	77-62	.805
Billy Eubanks	2 (1958-60)	52	117-92	.786
Cecil Upshaw	3 (1961-64)	69	179-140	.782

ASSISTS (since 1968)

Barry McLeod 423; Melvin Russell 387; Lee Mansell 245; Dave Deets 179; John Hickerson 164; Leon Johnson 157; Kevin Starke 155; Nate Bland 151; Robert Parish 150; Larry Davis 125; Bill Schmidt 125; Milton Horne 118; Jerry Waugh 118; Al Barnes 117.

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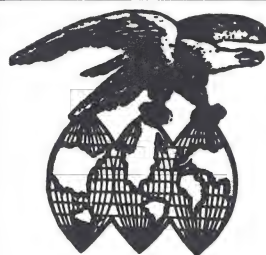


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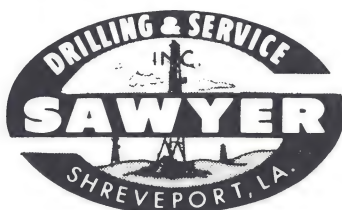
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INDIVIDUAL SINGLE GAME RECORDS

By Centenary

Most Points— 50, ROBERT PARISH vs. Lamar at Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 22, 1972.

Most Field Goal Attempts— 37, ROBERT PARISH vs. Lamar at Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 22, 1972 (made 25).

Most Field Goals Made— 25, ROBERT PARISH vs. Lamar at Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 22, 1972 (attempted 37).

Best Field Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts) — .929, LARRY WARD vs. Houston at Hirsch Y.C., Jan. 25, 1969 (13 of 14).

Most Free Throw Attempts— 19, ROBERT SCOTT vs. Northwestern at Hirsch Y.C., Dec. 31, 1958 (made 18).

Most Free Throws Made— 18, ROBERT SCOTT vs. Northwestern at Hirsch Y.C., Dec. 31, 1958 (attempted 19).

Best Free Throw Percentage— 1.000 (10-of-10), MILTON WILLIAMS vs. Northwestern at Hirsch Y.C., Jan. 29, 1957.

Most Rebounds— 33, ROBERT PARISH vs. Southern Mississippi at Gold Dome, Jan. 27, 1973.

Most Assists— 17, MELVIN RUSSELL vs. LSU-New Orleans at New Orleans, Feb. 24, 1973.

By Opponents

Most Points— 50, ELVIN HAYES, Houston, at Hirsch Y.C., Feb. 10, 1968.

Most Field Goal Attempts— 37, ELVIN HAYES, Houston, at Hirsch Y.C., Feb. 10, 1968 (made 22).

Most Field Goals Made— 22, ELVIN HAYES, Houston, at Hirsch Y.C., Feb. 10, 1968 (attempted 37).

Most Free Throw Attempts— 21, DICK BROWN, Northwestern, at Haynes Gym, Jan. 15, 1955 (made 18).

Most Free Throws Made— 18, DICK BROWN, Northwestern, at Haynes Gym, Jan. 15, 1955 (attempted 21).

Best Free Throw Percentage— 1.000 (13-of-13), RICKY SUGG, Arkansas, at Hirsch Y.C., Dec. 13, 1965, and TOMMY ROWLAND, Arkansas, at Fayetteville, Ark., Dec. 12, 1966.

Most Rebounds— 38, PAUL SILAS, Creighton, at Omaha, Neb., Feb. 19, 1962; 37, ELVIN HAYES, Houston, at Hirsch Y.C., Feb. 10, 1968; 33, CHARLIE BISHOP, Louisiana Tech, at Ruston, Feb. 28, 1967.

Most Assists— 18, VICTOR KELLY, Hawaii, at Honolulu, HI, Feb. 22, 1975.

TOP SINGLE GAME INDIVIDUAL SCORING

By Centenary

Pts.	Player	Opponent	Date	FG	FT
50	Robert Parish	Lamar	12-22-72	37-25	1-0
47	Tom Kerwin	Louisiana Tech	2-21-66	26-20	8-7
46	Barrie Haynie	Houston	2- 7-66	36-18	11-10
42	Tom Kerwin	Oklahoma City	2- 2-66	31-19	6-4
41	Tom Kerwin	Louisiana Tech	2-25-65	24-17	10-7
40	Tom Kerwin	SMU	12-21-65	25-15	11-10
40	Tom Kerwin	So. Mississippi	2-29-64	16-12	18-16
39	Tom Kerwin	Tennessee Tech	1-18-64	30-17	8-5
38	Robert Parish	Texas-Arlington	2- 5-73	24-17	6-4
37	Bobby White	Louisiana Tech	1- 4-77	29-18	1-1
37	Gerald Martello	Arkansas State	2-28-59	17-15	12-7
37	Barrie Haynie	NW Louisiana	2- 8-65	21-12	16-13
37	Fred Zitar	Loyola	2-18-71	20-15	13-7
36	Milton Williams	SE Oklahoma	12-18-57	21-14	8-8
36	Jackie Crawford	Tampa	1-28-61	24-14	8-8
36	Robert Parish	Houston Baptist	2-21-76	23-14	9-8
36	Robert Parish	So. Mississippi	1-11-73	24-12	7-7
35	Burl Plunkett	Arizona State	12-17-53	21-14	8-7
35	Billy Hester	La. College	1-19-53	21-16	4-3
35	Tom Kerwin	Cincinnati	12-19-64	23-13	11-9

By Opponent

Pts.	Player	Team	Date	FG	FT
50	Elvin Hayes	Houston	2-10-68	37-22	9-6
46	Dick Garrett	So. Illinois	3- 1-68	30-19	8-8
45	Bud Koper	Oklahoma City	2-16-62	29-20	5-5
44	Rich Travis	Oklahoma City	2-28-68	33-19	9-6
43	Bill Reigel	McNeese State	3- 3-56	28-14	18-15
43	Elvin Hayes	Houston	12-14-68	31-19	6-5
42	Simmie Hill	W. Texas St.	1-25-68	29-17	12-8
42	Rich Travis	Oklahoma City	2- 5-68	27-14	15-14
41	Ricky Sugg	Arkansas	12-13-65	20-14	13-13
41	Jerry Lee Wells	Oklahoma City	2- 2-66	37-17	10-7
41	Gary Gray	Oklahoma City	2-25-67	34-18	5-5
41	Larry Moore	UT-Arlington	1-18-73	29-20	2-1
40	Elvin Hayes	Houston	2- 7-66	24-17	16-6
40	Elvin Hayes	Houston	1- 6-68	36-20	1-0
40	Mike Green	Louisiana Tech	12- 2-72	33-19	4-2
39	Mike Coleman	So. Mississippi	1-16-75	30-16	8-8
39	Joe Abendroth	Louisiana Tech	1- 5-63	-14	18-11
38	Hunter Beckman	Memphis State	2-26-63	22-16	8-6
37	Larry Bird	Indiana State	1-22-77	16-14	9-9
37	John Dickson	Arkansas State	1- 3-66	-14	12-9
37	Jerry Lee Wells	Oklahoma City	3- 3-66	25-14	9-9
36	Tom Chilton	East Tenn. St.	2-11-61	30-13	13-10
36	Don Curnett	Miami	1-15-70	33-16	5-4
36	Lanhy Wells	Louisiana Tech	1- 4-77	25-14	10-8

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REMEMBER:

Milton Williams – “The Chief”

Milton “Chief” Williams was (1) one of the best and most colorful guards in Centenary basketball history and (2) one of the wildest characters.

There are many people in Shreveport—probably at tonight’s Homecoming game—who remember the exploits of the full-blooded Indian from the Alabama-Coushatta reservation near Livingston, Tex.

On the court, he had a knack for ballhandling, clutch shooting and showmanship rarely found. He wasn’t a big scorer—by choice—but he could dominate a game, even at his size (5-11).

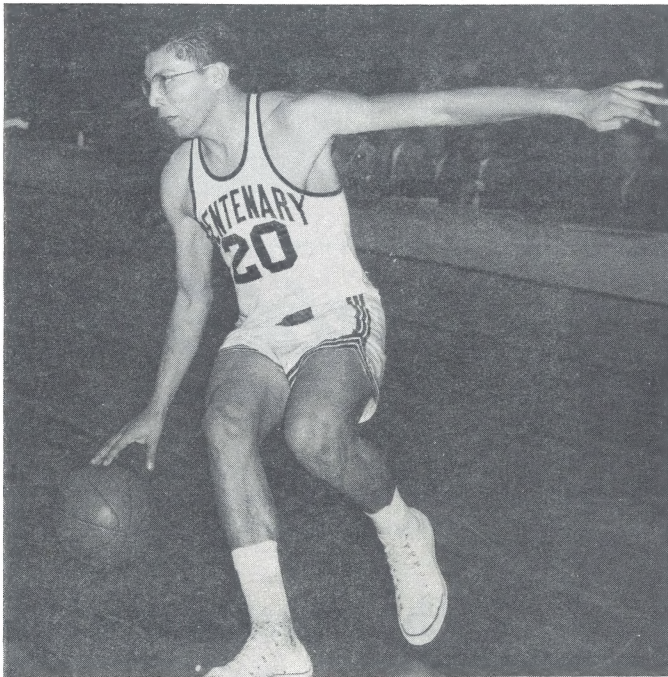
He was a Little All-American, twice all-tournament in the annual Louisiana Invitational Tournament and twice helped the Gents into the NCAA Small College Tournament.

Off the court, he was totally unpredictable. People at Centenary wondered what he would—and could—do next.

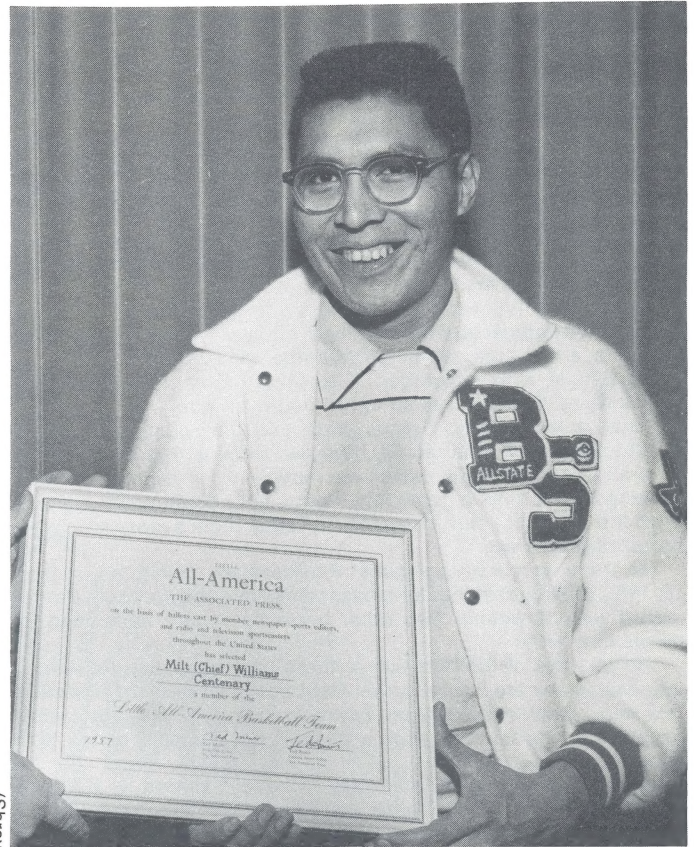
He is now—and this may surprise those people—Rev. Milton Williams... a man who “turned my life to Jesus.”

He looks back on the days at Centenary with fondness and also with some regret.

“I was a problem,” he admits. “It’s one regret that I have today. As time passed on, I could see I was like a little kid, immature. I should have capitalized on getting an education, getting a diploma.”



... and his All-American style



“The Chief” shows off his All-American plaque...

He traces his problems to “a drinking habit I took up at Tyler (Junior College). I picked it up and that ruined me. Really, in high school I did very well. I excelled to my senior year... I really regret to this day, I didn’t study harder instead of looking for highlights and parties.”

But “The Chief” is a changed man, a man of the ministry for 11 years.

“As I went on farther in my life,” he says, “I met Jesus. I turned my life to him. I gathered up the little pieces and he called me to the ministry.”

He is back where he grew up—on the closed Indian reservation between Woodville and Livingston on Highway 190 where the people know him as “Redd” (his middle name).

He is currently preaching on weekends and at revivals and waiting for an opening to head his own church. He had been minister of the Indian Village Assembly of God Church there until he was appointed a missionary to the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe.

That meant a move to an open reservation in Longdale, Okla., but after 1½ years, he and his family returned to their home in September.

(continued on following page)

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Remember:

(continued from page 35)

It was there, at Big Sandy High School of Dallardsville, that Milton Williams' basketball career began blossoming.

He was an All-State Class B player and the Big Sandy teams almost annually played for the Texas B state championship.

He went to Tyler JC and starred there, too, and then was the object of a big recruiting chase.

"I was kind of shy as far as being with a lot of people and at a big school," he remembers. "I had offers everywhere, but I found Centenary to be what I liked.

"Coach (Harold) Mooty was real good to get to know," he adds. "I was kinda impressed with the school. They played an independent schedule, a real high caliber of basketball and I liked that."

The people who remember "The Chief" remember mostly his ballhandling. Scoring was an afterthought for him.

"I had a lot of good friends there and they compelled me to go and score high," he recalls. "We had some games that we won by pretty good margins, but if you notice in my two years there, I averaged 15 points a game. My friends felt I could score anytime I had the ball. But I didn't want to ... Today there's more emphasis on scoring than ever."

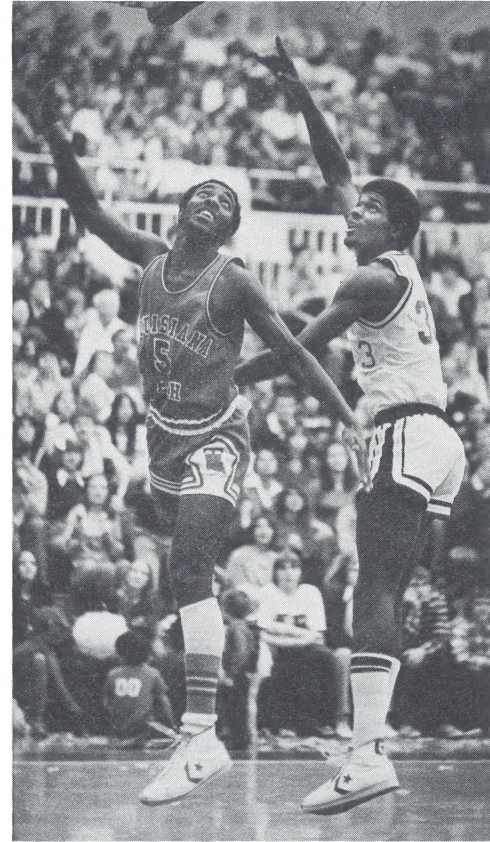
Yet, there were nights. Against Southeastern Oklahoma on Dec. 18, 1957, Williams set the Centenary school and Hirsch Youth Center record with 36 points. Two other times he scored more than 30 points in a game.

"He was one of the best two or three backcourt men Centenary ever had in any era," says former Gent coach F.H. "Buss" Delaney. "He was a team leader without saying anything. He was completely unselfish ... he's rather stick a pass in a big man's hands than shoot."

"The Chief" is now 42 and says, "I haven't played in a while." What he does is "try to teach my son a little about the game."

That is Aaron, 14, who is playing at Big Sandy Jr. High. The Williams family also includes wife Pauline (they've been married 18 years), daughter Sonja, 17, and younger sons Joel, 8, and Tim, 6 months.

THE GENTS IN ACTION



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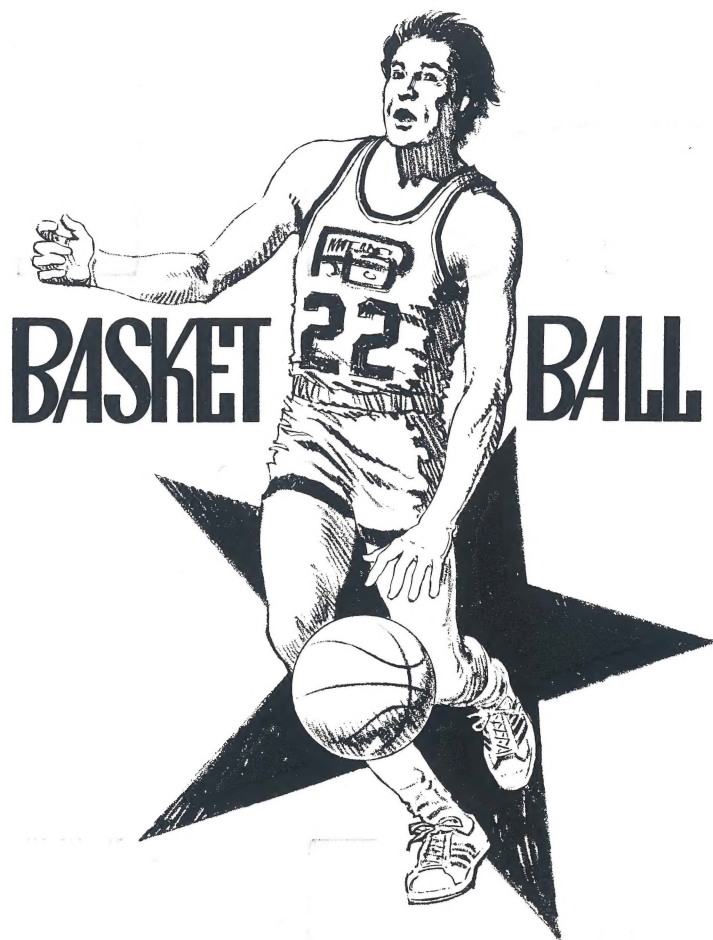
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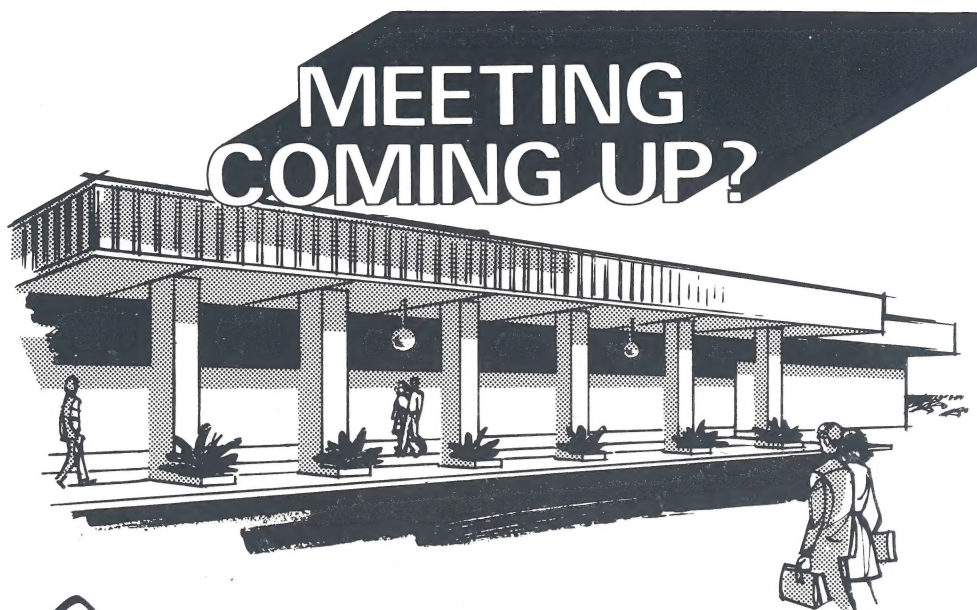
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